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**COMPOSERS NOW, UNDER THE ARTISTIC DIRECTION OF
TANIA LEÓN, ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
FUND FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

The citywide, month-long 2014 Composers Now Festival kicks off February 1

Composer Tania León – founding and Artistic Director of Composers Now – is pleased to announce that the organization has become a project partner of the Fund for the City of New York for the citywide, multi-institution and month-long event. Composers Now celebrates living composers, the diversity of their voices and the significance of their musical contributions to the cultural fabric of our society. Presented collaboratively by organizations throughout the five boroughs, the festival features a broad spectrum of performances in concert halls, jazz mobiles, opera stages, experimental spaces, conservatories, museums and other musical venues. Amy Roberts Frawley will serve as Project Director of Composers Now.

“Composers Now Festival will give New Yorkers across the five boroughs a significant opportunity to experience the rich and diverse contributions of composers to the cultural life of the city,” Mary McCormick, President of the Fund for the City of New York, says. “We are happy to provide this innovative organization with the administrative resources and energy it needs to fully realize its mission.”

Composers Now Festival was launched in 2010 at Symphony Space, thanks to the support of President and CEO Cynthia Elliott and Artistic Director Laura Kaminsky. León had voiced to fellow composer Laura Kaminsky her desire to put a public face on the vitality, diversity and innovations that composers bring to our communities. For the last four years, Symphony Space has served as an incubator for the development of the festival, designed to honor the plethora of sounds and styles of today’s composers.

The fifth installment of Composers Now Festival will kick off February 1, 2014. As in previous years, the “Music of Now” marathon, presented by Symphony Space, will launch the month-long celebration. It will be followed by dozens of performances, lectures and panel discussions throughout New York City, ranging from concert to jazz to

indie to electronic music and mapping an incredible sonic journey through the landscape of our time. Each event will feature a recent work by a living composer. Composers will be in attendance at all events, participating in performances or panel discussions, and interacting with audiences.

Previous festival participants include Park Avenue Armory, The Kitchen, American Composers Orchestra, JazzMobile, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Asia Society, Dance Theater of Harlem, Americas Society, Miller Theatre, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Flushing Town Hall, El Museo del Barrio, Harlem Stage, Le Poisson Rouge, Afro Latin Jazz Alliance, Drom, Cornelia Street Café, Tenri Cultural Institute, The Juilliard School, Manhattan School of Music, New York University, Brooklyn College, Mannes College of Music, Columbia University, The Graduate Center at CUNY, American Opera Projects, Harlem School of the Arts, HERE Arts Center, Encompass, Galapagos Art Space, Roulette, Trinity Wall Street, Flushing-Queens Library, the Museum of the Moving Image, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts and more.

Please contact Tania León, Artistic Director of the Composers Now Festival, at: tleon@ComposersNow2014.org to schedule lectures, forums, symposiums or special projects as part of the February 2014 Composers Now Festival.

Please contact Amy Roberts Frawley, Project Director of the Composers Now Festival, at: afrawley@ComposersNow2014.org or 917.847.3551 to become a February 2014 Composers Now Festival collaborative partner and register an event throughout the City.

For more information: www.ComposersNow2014.org

A vital personality on today's music scene, **Tania León** (born in Cuba) is highly regarded as a composer and conductor, and recognized for her accomplishments as an educator and advisor to arts organizations. She has been the subject of profiles on ABC, CBS, CNN, PBS, Univision, Telemundo and independent films.

Recent commissions include *Inura* for voices, strings, and percussion, *Acana* for orchestra, and *Atwood Songs* for soprano, with text by Margaret Atwood. Appearances as guest conductor include the Symphony Orchestra of Marseille, the Gewandhausorchester, and L'Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, among others.

A founding member of the Dance Theatre of Harlem, León instituted the Brooklyn Philharmonic Community Concert Series, was a co-founder of the American Composers Orchestra's "Sonidos de las Américas festivals" and New Music Advisor to the New York Philharmonic.

She has lectured at Harvard University and at the Mosse Lecture series at the University of Humboldt in Berlin, Germany. She was Visiting Professor at Yale University and Guest Composer/Conductor at the Hamburg Musikschule, Germany and the Beijing Central Conservatory, China. In 2012 Tania León was the Andrew Mellon Foundation's Distinguished Scholar at the Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Her honors include the New York Governor's Lifetime Achievement Award, the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award, and the Fromm, Koussevitzky, and Guggenheim Fellowships. In 2012 she received both a Grammy nomination (for "Best Contemporary Classical Composition") and a Latin Grammy nomination (for "Best Classical Contemporary Composition.") In 2013 she was the recipient of the prestigious ASCAP Victor Herbert Award.

León has also received Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Colgate University, Oberlin, and SUNY Purchase College, and has served as U.S. Artistic Ambassador of American Culture in Madrid, Spain. A Professor at Brooklyn College since 1985, she was named Distinguished Professor of the City University of New York in 2006. In 2010 she was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Amy Roberts Frawley is the performing arts curator at Wave Hill in addition to her work as a consultant in the arts. Her current commitments include those as Project Director of the Composers Now Festival and as producer for the multi-media opera *Phoolan Devi - The Bandit Queen* by Shirish Korde. She also created and produces the *Keyed Up Music Project* with pianist Marc Peloquin. Her organizational experience includes thirteen years as executive vice president of Concert Artists Guild and positions at John Gingrich Management, Speculum Musicae, Chamber Music International and Young Concert Artists. An active volunteer, Ms. Frawley is a former president and current member of the board of directors of the Look & Listen Festival and is a member of the advisory committee of Underground Opera Productions. She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Connecticut College with a B.A. in American History.



FUND FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK

The **Fund for the City of New York** was established by the Ford Foundation in 1968 with the mandate to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers. For over three decades, in partnership with government agencies, nonprofit institutions and foundations, the Fund has developed and helped to implement innovations in policy, programs, practices and technology in order to advance the functioning of government and nonprofit organizations in New York City and beyond.

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